

PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee

Bob Stump, Chairman

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STATEMENT BY HOUSE ARMED SERVICES CHAIRMAN BOB STUMP

“I interpret this week’s media reports on the defense budget merely as signs of the usual internal deliberations that occur early in any Administration as it puts a budget together.

“I do not believe that a final decision has been made on what this Administration’s defense budget will be and I agree that it is only prudent to engage in a thorough and expedited strategy review to guide and shape this important decision.

“However, there are basic facts that will not change regardless of the outcome of a strategy review. Namely, that President Bush has inherited a defense program that is woefully underfunded and facing critical and immediate shortfalls.

“I believe we should give the new Administration adequate time to put forth a coherent, strategy-based defense program that not only takes care of the immediate need for additional resources, but also advances the Administration’s forthcoming national security strategy.”

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